



BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**  
**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

**[Docket No. IC14-4-000]**

**Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-73); Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Comment request.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is submitting the information FERC-73, Oil Pipeline Service Life Data, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review of the information collection requirements. Any interested person may file comments directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission as explained below. In response to the notice issued in the Federal Register (79 FR 3362, January 21, 2014) FERC received one comment. FERC responds to the comment below as well as in its submittal to OMB.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** Comments filed with OMB, identified by the OMB Control No. 1902-0019, should be sent via email to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs: [oir\\_submission@omb.gov](mailto:oir_submission@omb.gov). Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer. The Desk Officer may also be reached via telephone at 202-395-4718.

A copy of the comments should also be sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, identified by the Docket No. IC14-4-000, by either of the following methods:

- eFiling at Commission's Web Site: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>.
- Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,

Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

*Instructions:* All submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at: <http://www.ferc.gov/help/submission-guide.asp>. For user assistance contact FERC Online Support by e-mail at [ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov](mailto:ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov), or by phone at: (866) 208-3676 (toll-free), or (202) 502-8659 for TTY.

*Docket:* Users interested in receiving automatic notification of activity in this docket or in viewing/downloading comments and issuances in this docket may do so at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/docs-filing.asp>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Ellen Brown may be reached by e-mail at [DataClearance@FERC.gov](mailto:DataClearance@FERC.gov), by telephone at (202) 502-8663, and by fax at (202) 273-0873.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title:* FERC-73, Oil Pipeline Service Life Data

*OMB Control No.:* 1902-0019

*Type of Request:* Three-year extension of the FERC-73 information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

*Abstract:* The Commission has authority over interstate oil pipelines as stated in the Interstate Commerce Act, 49 U.S.C. 6501, *et. al.* As part of the information necessary for the subsequent investigation and review of an oil pipeline company's proposed depreciation rates, the pipeline companies are required to provide service life data as part of their data submissions if the proposed depreciation rates are based on the remaining physical life calculations. This service life data is submitted on FERC Form No. 73, "Oil Pipeline Service Life Data". The information collected under the requirements of FERC Form No. 73 is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Sections 306 and 402 of the Department of Energy Organization Act, 42 U.S.C. 7155 and 7172, and Executive Order No. 12009, 42 FR 46277 (September 13, 1977).<sup>1</sup>

The submitted data are used by the Commission to assist in the selection of appropriate service lives and book depreciation rates. Book depreciation rates are used by oil pipeline companies to compute the depreciation portion of their operating expense which is a component of their cost of service which in turn is used to determine the transportation rate to assess customers. FERC staff's recommended book depreciation rates become legally binding when issued by Commission order. These rates remain in effect until a subsequent review is requested and the outcome indicates that a modification is justified. The Commission implements these filings in 18 CFR parts 347 and 357.

*Type of Respondents:* Oil pipeline companies.

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<sup>1</sup> For FERC Form No. 73 filing instructions and materials, please see <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/forms.asp#form73>.

*Estimate of Annual Burden*<sup>2</sup>: The Commission estimates the total Public Reporting Burden for this information collection as:

<b>FERC Form No. 73, Oil Pipeline Service Life Data</b>					
	<b>Number of Respondents (A)</b>	<b>Number of Responses Per Respondent (B)</b>	<b>Total Number of Responses (A)x(B)=(C)</b>	<b>Average Burden Hours per Response (D)</b>	<b>Estimated Total Annual Burden (C)x(D)</b>
Oil Pipelines Undergoing Investigation or Review	3	1	3	40	120

The total estimated annual cost burden to respondents is \$8,400 [120 hours \* \$70/hour = \$8,400<sup>3</sup>].

*Comment received in response to initial notice:* The Commission received one comment from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). In that comment, BEA strongly supported the continued collection of data through the FERC Form No. 73. Their support stems from reliance on this data collection for key components of their economic statistics. Specifically, BEA uses the information on the service lives for petroleum pipeline companies to validate the lives in BEA's depreciation rates for petroleum pipelines. Moreover, these rates help BEA derive economic depreciation or consumption of fixed capital as part of the National Income and Product Accounts work BEA does.

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<sup>2</sup> The Commission defines burden as the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. For further explanation of what is included in the information collection burden, reference 5 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

<sup>3</sup> \$70/hour is the average FERC employee salary plus benefits. We assume that respondents to this collection are similarly situated in terms of salary and benefits.

In response, the FERC intends to work with BEA should there be a need to make any changes to this data collection.

*Comments:* Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: April 4, 2014.

Kimberly D. Bose,  
Secretary.

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